1040 MeF Working Group Meeting June 8, 2009

Software Developers Conference (no conference call available)

Volume Management Strategy Plan

IRS is planning to provide the Volume Management Strategy Plan by the end of July. There will be a daily conference call with developers set up when the Assurance Testing System opens. The frequency of these meetings will vary. More information should be available by the next working group meeting. In the meantime, here is a summary of the discussion:

Number of Returns

- Target is 30 Million accepted 1040s (federal returns only) total
- Target per hour is up to 250,000 (peak period), which will include Forms 1040, Forms 4868 and state returns.
- Form 4868 will not be limited because the file is small compared to Form 1040
- IRS will determine a percentage of returns to accept and update the percentage over time
- 1040 MeF will incorporate potential growth and adjust the percentages, but 30 million accepted 1040 returns is still the max at 250,000 per hour.
- The system won't stop if we receive over 250,000 an hour but the acknowledgments may take longer to be issued.

Monitoring submissions by ETIN

- IRS will speak with each company privately and provide a daily volume with the number of returns they can submit through MeF based on history and percentage of the volume.
- If one company has multiple ETINs the percentage is managed by the company and not by the ETIN.
- IRS is looking at EMS receipt patterns and volumes per day for each ETIN for this processing year. Midnight EST is the cutoff for each day.
- Although MeF accepts multiple return types in one message, for processing year 2010 the 1040 returns should not be submitted in the same message as business returns.
- Any company that consistently violates the percentage set by IRS will be warned and, if the violations persist, could be suspended.

Acknowledgments

• The acknowledgment turnaround time for processing year 2010 is 5 minutes in non-peak periods and 2 hours during peak periods. No numbers are available for subsequent processing years.

Unknown Variables

- How many states are participating and to what degree will that impact the volume management strategy plan?
- IRS will set a deadline for the states and software developers to declare if they will be participating in 1040 MeF for processing year 2010. If states and/or software developers determine they will not participate at the deadline, they will not be able to participate in 1040 MeF for the entire processing year.
- During the conference, IRS received no response to the question, "How many are planning to submit 1040-As and 1040-EZs as Form 1040 through MeF?"

Other information provided during this presentation:

 MeF transitioned to JAXP because of the speed. MeF will supply the JAXP version in Publication 4164.

Schema Information

- Next schema meeting is June 17th
- Tax year 2009 schemas and business rules will post to irs.gov on June 11th. This package will include the acknowledgement and submission manifest. A sample 1040 submission and submission manifest will be posted also.
- The tax year 2009 schema will include the 3rd child for the Schedule EIC
- MeF will not have shared form versioning this year

Changes to tax year 2009 schemas

- Form 1099-R
 - Removed enumeration from IRASEPSIMPLEDistributionCd" to make schema less restrictive
 - o Address choice is now a required choice entry
 - Changed "PayersUSAddress" from "USAddressType" to "OtherUSAddressType"
 - Proposal to change name of element from IRASEPSIMPLEDistributionCd to F1099RDistributionCd.

• Form W-2

- o changed length of StringType for "EmployersUseCd" from 6 to 2
- o sent proposal on June 4, 2009 to have 2 tables in W-2 (one for state and one for local) "StateAbbreviationCd" would be left as optional and states could restrict as an alternative to ERC 0405. Send an e-mail to 1040MeF@irs.gov if you would like to comment on this proposal.

MeF Responses during Question and Answer period

- We are reviewing:
 - o cost to standardize inconsistencies between business return schemas and 1040 schemas.
 - o overflow statements vs repeating groups and the effects on stylesheets
 - o request to open 1040 MeF on Monday instead of Friday (as current e-file system does)
- We will post a mapping from error reject code to business rule once we get the error reject code updates
- The 1040 Working Group presentation shown on June 8, 2009 is on irs.gov at: http://www.irs.gov/efile/article/0,,id=204764,00.html
- MeF does not use a DCN. The Form 8453 goes to a separate unit and should still be able to process the information without the DCN.
- Quick Alerts sender line has been changed from "Internal Revenue Service" to "Quick Alerts" as of June 12, 2009.